

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claims 20 and 24 have been amended. Claims 20 – 29 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the specification and the Abstract are objected to. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 20 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Also, in the Office Action, claims 20 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 07-313435 (JP'435).

With respect to the objections to the specification and the Abstract, it is submitted that these objections are now obviated in view of the amendment of the specification to provide headings and the amendment of the Abstract.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20 - 29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is submitted that these rejections are now obviated in view of the amendment of claims 20 and 24.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 20 and 24 as currently amended, and claims 21 – 23 and 25 – 29, patentably define over the prior art of record. For example, JP 07-313435 (JP'435) does not teach or disclose the method for washing and drying items in a dishwasher recited in claim 20 of the present application. Specifically, JP 07-313435 (JP'435) does not teach or disclose the step recited in claim 20 of the present application of executing a drying program, following completion of the washing program, such that, in response to both an interruption of the drying program resulting in the dishwasher no longer being in a program run state and a thereafter following restoration of the dishwasher to its program run state, a parameter value is measured and, in a first given circumstance, the drying program is resumed if a selected one of a

predetermined deviation and an absence of the predetermined deviation from a nominal value is detected and, in a second given circumstance, a fresh cycle of a washing program and a drying program is initiated if the other of the predetermined deviation and the absence of the predetermined deviation is detected. Instead, JP 07-313435 (JP'435) discloses a method for re-measuring a drying cumulative time in the event that a drying operation of a dishwasher is detected and this prior art reference does not hint at the desirability of determining if a drying program should be resumed or, alternatively, if a fresh cycle of a washing program and a drying program should be initiated.

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 20 – 29 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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